

Bloody Treason . . .

'NO ACTIVITY can go through space and time and not leave a fingerprint," said Oleg M. Nechiporenko of KGB intelligence.

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Newsday

12/23/97

I CAN'T SAY I've read every word of Noel Twyman's massive new book, "Bloody Treason: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy." It weighs a ton, but it will make a fabulous Christmas gift for the movie director Oliver Stone.

Pretty much along the lines of what Stone intimates in his controversial film, "JFK," author Twyman not only says he has more or less solved "history's greatest murder mystery," but he indicts the Mafia, Lyndon Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI, the CIA and the military-industrial complex as having conspired in a grand scheme to rid themselves of the 35th president of the United States and place the blame on Communist Cuba.

OK. The last book I read on all this was Gerald Posner's "Case Closed," and I decided then that I agreed with Posner. (There was no conspiracy and Oswald acted alone.) But now that I've read great gulps of "Bloody Treason" and carefully studied the enhanced colored photo frames from the famous Zapruder film (which Twyman says somebody, such as the FBI, altered and doctored), I am totally confused again.

Twyman's major hypothesis sounds idiotic. How could so many diverse and disparate factions conspire and get away with it? Well, he claims they were able to do so because they controlled everything that happened after JFK was shot — the autopsy, the Zapruder film, the evidence, etc. His conclusions, drawn from the film frames alone, are pretty darned convincing. This is a story that will not die, coming soon from Laurel Publishing.

I'LL SAY THIS for the aspiring Twyman. He has himself up to date. Under a photo of Judith Exner, the lady JFK loved during his candidacy and while in the White House, is this caption: "In an article by Liz Smith in the January 1997 issue of Vanity Fair, Exner revealed the end of her affair with President Kennedy: that she became pregnant by him and, with his knowledge, had an abortion."

Seeing that reminded me. Why then did Seymour Hersh omit this salient tidbit from his own controversial book, "The Dark Side of Camelot"? He'd said all along he was going to "rehabilitate" Exner, that he would say she was a much-maligned figure in the entire mess of the president's peccadillos. Hersh claimed to Exner he believed every word she told him about being in love with JFK and acting as a courier between the White House and the Mafia's Sam Giancana.

Then Hersh went on to use in his best-seller the spurious material from Exner's first and only book — a work she has repeatedly and publicly repudiated, excoriated and blamed herself for, and which she herself says "is riddled



AP File Photo

John F. Kennedy

New book sounds like Stone

his face-to-face interviews with Judith. (She told me this week that this isn't so and that the only reason she talked to Hersh was because I vouched for him.)

Exner no longer speaks to Hersh. "He quoted an FBI agent against me in his book although there isn't a scrap of evidence to support the man's story. He told me over and over, 'People will never ever think of you in the same way after my book is printed.' Frankly, I think people must think worse of me now. Seymour knows I did not sleep with Jack and Sam at the same time, and I only had intimate relations with Sam once. But he uses all this stuff I have repudiated from a book that I told him from the beginning was full of lies, as if now he believes it is a real source. 'You can't rely on my so-called life story in any way,' I told him."

Hersh did incredible research for his book — getting Tina Sinatra and George Smathers to talk, etc. But he destroyed his own work by hedging his bets.

"A FUNNY THING Happened on the Way to the Forum" did have a funny thing happen the other eve. When Bob Amaral, who plays Pseudolus, opened up the magic box that usually holds a man in a blond wig and a short blue dress, the audience was surprised and delighted to find that Whoopi Goldberg was in the box. Whoopi took a bow. (She used to star in this musical, which closes Jan. 4.)

NOT ONLY were actor Bill Paxton and his wife Louise excited about the opening of his movie "Titanic," but they had a baby born in L.A. just as the film hit the bigtime. (Some are comparing the film to "Gone With The